

REMARKS

The listing of the claims above is included for the Examiner's convenience in understanding the following remarks.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the brief phone interview on October 7, 2004.

The Office Action states that an election is required between Group I, claims 1 – 16, drawn to a shielding gas, and Group II, claims 17 – 39, drawn to a method for arc welding. However, as shown in the listing of claims provided above, claims 17 – 19 are drawn to a shielding gas, not a method of arc welding.

In response to the restriction requirement, Applicants elect Group I containing claims drawn to a shielding gas. However, Applicants respectfully submit that Group I should include claims 1 – 19.

In compliance with the restriction requirement, claims 20 – 39 are canceled without prejudice.

If there are any questions regarding this amendment or the application in general, a telephone call to the undersigned would be appreciated since this should expedite the prosecution of the application for all concerned.

If necessary to effect a timely response, this paper should be considered as a petition for an Extension of Time sufficient to effect a timely response, and please charge any deficiency in fees or credit any overpayments to Deposit Account No. 05-1323 (Docket #038724.52435US).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Lawrence E. Carter", is written over a horizontal line.

Donald D. Evenson
Registration No. 26,160
Lawrence E. Carter
Registration No. 51,532

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CROWELL & MORING LLP
Intellectual Property Group
P.O. Box 14300
Washington, DC 20044-4300
Telephone No.: (202) 624-2500
Facsimile No.: (202) 628-8844
DDE:LEC